



HEADQUARTERS NEW JERSEY ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD
NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
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HYDROGEN GAS RELEASED FROM FLAMELESS HEATERS IN MEALS-READY-TO-EAT (MRES)

1. REFERENCE, DLAR 4155.26/AR 40-660/NAVSUPINST 10110.8C/AFI 48-116/MCO 10110.38C, DOD Hazardous Food and Non-Prescription Drug Recall System and Allied Communications Publication 121, US SUPP-1 (F).
2. Flameless Ration Heaters contained in Meals, Ready-To-Eat (MREs) are spontaneously emitting small amounts of Hydrogen Gas into the atmosphere. The US Army NATICK Research Development and Engineering Center (NATICK) determined this does not have an effect on the safety, quality, wholesomeness, or shelf life of the rations. The heaters are safe when used in accordance with the printed instructions.
3. Facilities and or units storing MREs must coordinate with a supporting environmental health unit (i.e.: military preventive medicine, fire dept, etc.) to monitor hydrogen levels. This prevents gas build-up to levels exceeding the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidelines of not more than 0.4% concentration. All facilities with rations must be vented immediately until coordination is made with qualified environmental health technicians.
4. NATICK will provide engineering support to determine the cause of the hydrogen emissions and guidelines for long term MRE storage. This information will be provided in a subsequent ALFOODACT when available.
5. SAAO-SOHM POC is CW3 Randy Niedt at (609) 530-4752.

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DISRTRIBUTION: A, A2, B, C